

## Species Highlight: Sweet-shrub (*Calycanthus floridus*)

**Global Rarity Rank:** G5 - Secure

**State Rarity Rank:** S2 – Imperiled in VA

**Legal Status:** None



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Sweet-shrub is a shrub with opposite leaves that grows up to 3 meters tall. Its aromatic maroon flowers bloom in spring and are large – up to 5 cm across. In Virginia, this shrub, though rare, can be found in a wide variety of habitats in the central and southern Piedmont as well as the southeastern Coastal Plain. It is often cultivated and occasionally escapes elsewhere. As of 2014, 9 occurrences of this state rare plant were documented by the Virginia Natural Heritage Program, 5 extant and 4 historic. The shrub is threatened with loss of habitat primarily (Weakley et al., 2012).

### Literature Cited:

Weakley, A.S, J. C. Ludwig, and J.F. Townsend 2012. Flora of Virginia. Bland Crowder, ed. Foundation of the Flora of Virginia Project Inc., Richmond. Fort Worth: Botanical Research Institute of Texas Press. p. 462.